

House Republican Press Release

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Graduated License Bill Passes House



Legislation Introduced by Scribner Passes Overwhelmingly

HARTFORD- Legislation introduced by Representative David Scribner (R-Brookfield) which places restrictions on sixteen and seventeen-year-old drivers passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives today.

The new bill fine-tunes legislation that Representative Scribner initiated and was subsequently passed into law over the past few legislative sessions. The new bill increases the mandated hours behind the wheel for driver training from eight hours to twenty hours, and eliminates restrictions on the age of parents who are passengers in a motor vehicle operated by a sixteen or seventeen-year old, but requires at least one of them to hold an operators license. It also prohibits a sixteen or seventeen-year old who has an operator's license from driving between midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless the person is driving for work or a school activity, or out of medical necessity. Exemptions are made for ambulance, fire and EMS personnel who are sixteen or seventeen years of age.

"The members of this chamber recognize the importance of what we are doing to try to save lives," said **Representative Scribner**. "By easing new and younger drivers into the responsibilities of operating a motor vehicle, it will be safer for them, and safer for other motorists."

Statistics have demonstrated conclusively that the first few months of a new driver's licensure are critical, and is the period of time when a new driver is most likely to get into a fatal accident. Quite often, the other young occupants in their car distract these young new drivers. According to data compiled by the State Department of Transportation 16 and 17-year-old drivers are 14% more likely to cause a crash resulting in fatalities or injuries while transporting one passenger than while driving alone.

The bill, ***HB 5446, An Act Concerning Additional Training and Restrictions for Drivers Under the Age of Eighteen***, will now head to the state Senate for approval by that chamber.